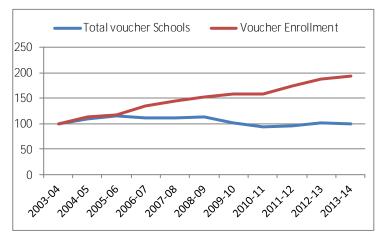
VOLUME 102, NUMBER 1

APRIL 2014

Number of voucher schools relatively unchanged since 2003 while enrollment has doubled

Milwaukee's Parental Choice Program (MPCP) includes 110 schools today, having experienced both exits and entrants from its roster of 111 schools in the past decade (see Chart 1). According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), fall 2013 voucher enrollment was 25,820 students, about double the 13,268 enrolled in 2003-2004. Thus, while the number of voucher *schools* is relatively unchanged, the number of voucher *students* has grown at an annual rate of 6.9% each year over the decade, including a 4% bump from the 2012-13 to the 2013-14 school year.

Chart 1: Number of schools and voucher students



Note: Data are indexed to better compare changes in both schools and students over time. Values in the 2003-2004 school year are set to 100%, so that by 2013-2014, for example, enrollment doubled (grew by 100%)

As reported in previous Public Policy Forum MPCP briefs, several legislative changes adopted as part of the 2011-13 Wisconsin State Budget paved the way for growth in the use of vouchers and for new schools to begin accepting voucher students. For example, the income threshold for voucher eligibility was raised from 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300%. Because the FPL for a family of four in 2013 was \$23,500, a family of four earning up to \$70,500 met the threshold, making nearly 60% of families in the city of Milwaukee eligible for a voucher in 2013. In addition, the voucher participation cap set at 22,500 students in 2005 was removed, and schools outside the City of Milwaukee were allowed to participate in the MPCP.

While these factors helped to reverse a decline in MPCP pupils that had occurred between the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, they have not yet resulted in growth in the number of schools participating in the program. Consequently, the average number of

voucher students in each participating school has risen from 109 in 2003-2004 to 235 in 2013-2014. Whether this leveling of the number of participating schools signals that a "natural limit" has been reached, or is a temporary lull, remains to be seen.¹

Public Policy Forum 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 406 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203 414.276.8240 www.publicpolicyforum.org

Research by:

Virginia Carlson, Research Director vcarlson@publicpolicyforum.org Jeff Schmidt, Researcher jschmidt@publicpolicyforum.org

Administrative staff:

Rob Henken, President Pam Matthews, Membership and Operations Manager

Research funded by:

OARGOSYFOUNDATION

¹ The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* did report on March 14 that 19 new schools had applied to be choice schools for the 2014-2015 school year. However, these schools have another set of requirements to meet by August 1 and it remains unclear whether the roster of choice schools will significantly grow in fall 2014.



Data and Methodology

This Research Brief reflects the Public Policy Forum's 16th annual census of MPCP schools and 3rd annual census of Racine's Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP). Surveys were conducted from November 2013 through January 2014. Schools initially were mailed a survey to complete and return; schools that failed to do so were visited to ensure a survey participation rate as close to 100% as possible.

Although we extended data collection by two additional weeks this year, 13 Milwaukee schools declined to participate in our census, a notable rise in non-participation (only three schools did not return surveys last year).

However, to the extent possible, any missing survey data were imputed from responses to the prior year's census or, in the case of enrollment, were obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to ensure as complete data as possible for all 110 schools. Note that all student figures (both total pupil enrollment and voucher

student participation) presented here represent headcount unless otherwise noted.

Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of MPCP schools in 2013-2014 based on survey responses and supplemental data gathering. Additional detailed characteristics for schools that participate in the MPCP can be found on the "poster" that accompanies this brief at: publicpolicyforum.org/2014voucherposter.htm

Answers to our survey also were supplemented with student reading and math proficiency data from DPI. It should be noted, however, that not all private schools have test scores to report. For example, some schools may not offer the grade levels for which testing is required. In addition, individual students are allowed to opt out of the testing and there is no limit as to how many students per school may opt out. Thus, some schools may have had all of their voucher students opt out of the tests. Finally, DPI does not release scores when five or fewer students in a grade are tested out of concern for students' privacy.

Table 1: MPCP by the numbers

	Number of schools	Percent of MPCP schools	Percent of MPCP Enrollment
Schools	110		
Preschool through early grade schools	4	4%	1%
Elementary schools	8	7%	5%
Kindergarten through 8th grade	65	59%	57%
Middle schools	1	1%	1%
High schools	17	15%	13%
Kindergarten through high schools	15	14%	22%
Religious schools	97	88%	89%
Catholic	36	33%	40%
Lutheran	26	24%	21%
Christian, non-denominational	22	20%	18%
Other religion	13	12%	10%
Non-religious schools	13	12%	11%
Accredited	92	84%	90%
Working toward accreditation	16	15%	10%
Standardized tests	92	84%	88%
WKCE	87	79%	87%
ITBS	31	28%	33%
Other	33	30%	35%



Finally, MPCP student proficiency rates cannot be compared to those of tuition-paying students because private schools are not required to administer the state exam to private students, nor is there a requirement that the scores of private school students be reported.

Continuing schools drive voucher growth, student mobility appears high

Simply considering the overall gain or loss of pupils in MPCP over time can disguise that fact that there is much movement among schools as schools grow or shrink, or as they open or close. Indeed, overall participation in the MPCP will be influenced by four factors: the loss of choice students caused by schools exiting the program; the loss of students in schools continuing in the program; an increase in students from schools new to the program; and growth in students in schools continuing in the program.

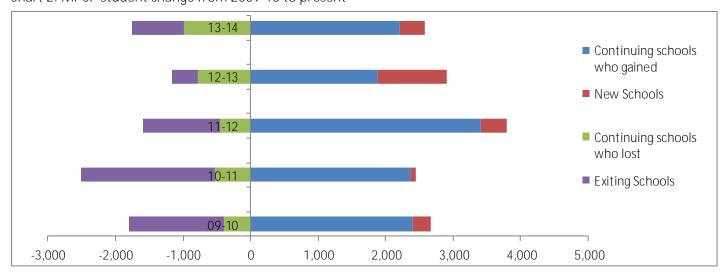
In Chart 2, we show how each of those factors contributed to overall MPCP student increases and decreases from the 2009-10 school year to the present. For example, in the 2013-14 school year, the number of MPCP pupils grew by 813 students,²

but this was the net effect of 2,212 students joining the ranks of already-certified schools, 363 pupils enrolling in new schools, 988 students leaving existing schools, and a 744 student loss associated with schools no longer in the voucher program.

As might have been predicted by our discussion of school participation above, voucher student growth clearly is being driven much more by the expansion of already-certified choice schools than from schools new to the MPCP. If a goal of the 2011-13 budget changes was to see the variety of schooling opportunities expanded, then the question of why the roster of new schools is not expanding at a faster rate may need to be examined.

A closer look at where student gains and losses occur over time also suggests that the MPCP experiences a significant amount of student mobility—that is, students moving between schools. Chart 2 shows that pupil increases in existing and new MPCP schools are, to a large extent, offset by losses from existing and closed schools. This offset means that the net growth of MPCP students is much less than would be predicted just by looking at the number of new voucher students in existing and new schools.





² One school was removed from the program after DPI released the enrollment numbers. We have removed that school from the total enrollment, but it is included in the grade-level enrollment trends.



One explanation might be that a large number of choice students exit the choice program and are offset by a significant number of new voucher students. Such high turnover has been documented by the School Choice Demonstration Project³ (a five-year longitudinal study of MPCP completed in 2012), which found that three out of four students in an MPCP school in ninth grade were no longer in the voucher program by 12th grade.

However, it might also be the case that the same choice pupils are exiting one set of schools and entering another. Without data on specific pupils, we cannot know for certain if that is the case. But this relatively high degree of mobility among schools appears to be occurring for all years for which we can present data. Such long-term churning may have detrimental effects on students and schools, as research has found that students who transfer frequently between schools are at greater risk for academic and behavioral problems.⁴

A lack of student-level data also precludes us from knowing whether the appearance of a student in a school new to the choice program represents a student who is new to the school or an existing student who has become a voucher student. A rise in the latter might explain, perhaps, the slight difference in the trend for the 2012-2013 school year, where the graph indicates a higher-than typical voucher student gain from new schools entering the program.

Table 2 lists the five schools that added the highest number of voucher students in the 2013-14 school year, as well as the five that lost the most. St.

Anthony's school on the south side continues its almost unprecedented growth, while a number of the "largest losers" have closed.

Table 2: Largest one-year gains and losses in voucher students

	School name	2013-14 voucher enrollment	One-year voucher change
5 la	Academy of Excellence	562	431
largest gaining	St. Anthony School	1,833	193
st g	United to Serve Academy*	127	127
ain	Holy Redeemer Christian Academy	507	118
ing	Concordia University School	387	85
5	Young Minds Preparatory School	114	-130
arg	Dr. Brenda Noach Choice School**	0	-127
est	Atlas Preparatory Academy, Inc.	857	-122
5 largest losing	Christ Memorial Lutheran School**	0	-78
ng	Travis Technology High School	136	-77

^{*} School new to the program in 2013-14

Voucher students segregated by voucher status and race

Another effect of choice students "channeling" into existing voucher schools is that choice schools are increasingly educating only choice pupils. Chart 3 presents data both on the number of MPCP schools (by percentage of total MPCP schools) for which voucher students make up 80% or more of total school enrollment (both voucher and non-voucher students), and the number of voucher students (by percentage of total voucher students) who are attending these predominantly-voucher schools.

In the 2008-09 school year, about 65% of voucher schools were predominantly-voucher. In 2013-14, that ratio had grown to 75%. This means that choice students are increasingly faced with choosing from a set of schools that are very likely to have only other choice students in their classrooms. Inasmuch as qualifying for a voucher may be an indicator of family economic vulnerability, it appears that economically vulnerable children are concentrated in MPCP schools in much the same way that they are concentrated in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).

^{**} Dr. Brenda Noach Choice School and Christ Memorial Lutheran School did not open in 2013-14.

³ http://www.uaedreform.org/the-comprehensive-longitudinal-evaluation-of-the-milwaukee-parental-choice-program/

⁴ http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/student-mobility/



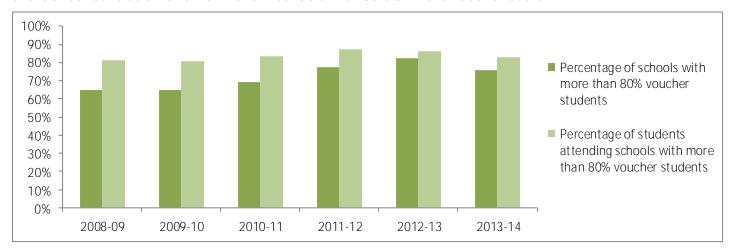
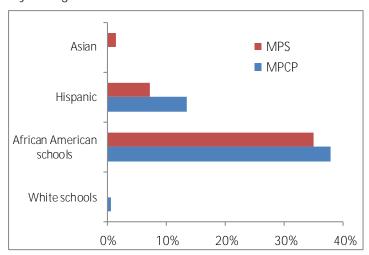


Chart 3: Concentration of enrollment in schools with 80% or more voucher users

Chart 4: Percentage of students attending MPS and MPCP schools with more than 80% enrollment by a single race



attended by 13% of the choice population. (These are slightly higher than rates for MPS.)

We cannot say with certainty that African-American students are attending predominantly African-American schools, because we know only the racial breakdown for the entire school enrollment and not for the yougher students. Yet the data suggest that

students. Thirty-seven percent of choice pupils

attend schools that are more than 80% African-

American, while predominantly-Hispanic schools are

American schools, because we know only the racial breakdown for the entire school enrollment and not for the voucher students. Yet, the data suggest that there is some racial sorting occurring that may bear further analysis, as we will see in the next section that segregation is associated with school performance.

Choice students also attend schools that are split along racial dimensions. Fifty-five of the 92 schools (60%) that reported racial enrollment are characterized by a student population where one race accounts for 80% or more of the total student population (Chart 4). Nine are majority Hispanic; 37 are majority African-American; and six are majority white. Others are two or more races.

Schools that are comprised primarily of African-American students attract the most voucher



Table 3: MPCP test scores by school

	2013-14	% Parent	% Not	2012-13 WKCE Scores Reading %	Math % Proficient/
School Name	% Voucher Enrollment			Proficient/Advanced	Advanced
Academy of Excellence	100%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	7.7%
Atlas Preparatory Academy, Inc.	100%	0.0%	2.3%	7.0%	7.0%
Calvary's Christian Academy - School of the Arts	100%	0.0%	5.3%	15.8%	31.6%
Carter's Christian Academy	100%	3.5%	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%
Ceria M. Travis Academy, Inc.	100%	0.0%	7.6%	0.0%	0.5%
Christian Faith Academy of Higher Learning	100%	4.3%	0.0%	3.0%	10.4%
CrossTrainers Academy	100%	0.0%	1.3%	3.9%	10.5%
Daughters of the Father Christian Academy	100%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	2.2%
Destiny High School	100%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%	1.4%
Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy	100%	0.0%	0.2%	3.3%	2.1%
Hickman Academy Preparatory School	100%	0.5%	0.0%	2.1%	1.0%
HOPE Christian School: Fortis	100%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%	12.4%
HOPE Christian School: Prima	100%	0.0%	0.0%	8.5%	18.5%
HOPE Christian School: Semper	100%	0.0%	2.2%	6.7%	2.2%
Jared C. Bruce Academy	100%	0.0%	2.2%	4.4%	5.1%
Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy	100%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	1.8%
Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz	100%	0.0%	1.0%	7.7%	5.6%
Right Step, Inc.	100%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
St. Catherine School	100%	0.0%	2.2%	1.1%	2.2%
St. Philip's Lutheran School	100%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	4.0%
Texas Bufkin Christian Academy	100%	7.1%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%
TransCenter for Youth/El Puente High School	100%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Washington DuBois Christian Leadership Academy	100%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Young Minds Preparatory School	100%	0.0%	2.0%	3.3%	0.7%
Early View Academy of Excellence	100%	0.0%	7.0%	5.7%	4.0%
St. Martini Lutheran School	100%	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	22.7%
St. John Kanty School	100%	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%	11.3%
St. Anthony School	99%	0.0%	0.0%	11.4%	19.0%
St. Rose and St. Leo Catholic School	99%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	6.4%
HOPE Christian High School	99%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Mount Lebanon Lutheran School	99%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	9.0%
Concordia University School	99%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%	9.3%
Northwest Lutheran School	99%	0.0%	0.7%	13.8%	24.6%
Sherman Park Lutheran School/Preschool	99%	0.0%	1.9%	8.3%	31.5%
St. Adalbert School	99%	0.0%	0.7%	10.1%	14.3%
Victory Christian Academy	99%	0.0%	1.5%	15.2%	9.1%
Blessed Savior Catholic School	98%	0.2%	0.0%	7.7%	5.8%
Christ St. Peter Lutheran School	98%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	7.3%
Holy Wisdom Academy	98%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	8.1%
St. Joan Antida High School	98%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	6.2%
Mount Calvary Lutheran School	98%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%	8.2%
Risen Savior Lutheran School	98%	0.0%	0.0%	11.6%	17.8%
St. Rafael the Archangel School	98%	1.3%	0.5%	10.5%	25.0%
Messmer Preparatory Catholic School	96%	0.0%	0.4%	12.3%	8.3%
Sharon Junior Academy	96%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	8.0%
Messmer High School	95%	0.0%	0.0%	10.1%	4.8%
St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School	95%	0.0%	6.5%	12.1%	9.3%
Clara Mohammed School, Inc.	95%	5.3%	0.9%	2.8%	0.9%
St. Marcus Lutheran School	95%	0.3%	0.0%	20.8%	37.5%



	2013-14 2012-13 WKCE Scores				
	% Voucher	% Parent	% Not	Reading %	Math %
School Name	Enrollment	Opt-Out	Tested	Proficient/Advanced	Proficient/Advanced
St. Josaphat Parish School	95%	0.0%	0.0%	11.5%	19.6%
Word of Life Evangelical Lutheran School	95%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	8.9%
Notre Dame Middle School	94%	0.7%	0.0%	23.7%	38.8%
Northwest Catholic	94%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	7.4%
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish	94%	0.0%	0.0%	13.5%	9.6%
Siloah Lutheran School	94%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	20.5%
St. Margaret Mary School	94%	0.0%	0.8%	15.1%	12.6%
Blessed Sacrament School	94%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	5.7%
Milwaukee Seventh Day Adventist School	93%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	8.8%
Garden Homes Lutheran School	93%	0.0%	0.0%	11.5%	23.7%
Atonement Lutheran School	93%	0.0%	0.0%	18.1%	26.0%
Yeshiva Elementary School	88%	1.0%	0.0%	46.5%	47.5%
Holy Redeemer Christian Academy	88%	0.0%	7.0%	1.0%	1.5%
Mother of Good Counsel School	84%	0.0%	0.0%	16.4%	10.3%
Salam School	83%	0.0%	0.0%	22.6%	22.6%
St. Vincent Pallotti School	81%	0.0%	0.0%	25.5%	23.5%
Torah Academy of Milwaukee	79%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
St. Roman Parish School	77%	0.0%	0.0%	8.2%	11.2%
St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee	75%	100.0%	V.U70	V.270	*
,	73%	0.0%	0.0%	32.3%	35.5%
Salem Evangelical Lutheran School	<u> </u>	53.1%	0.0%	50.0%	17.4%
Tamarack Waldorf School	71%	8.6%	0.0%	22.6%	26.4%
New Testament Christian Academy	70%		3.6%	15.2%	
Milwaukee Lutheran High School	70%	5.9%			12.5%
Mount Olive Lutheran School	66%	0.0%	0.0%	23.0%	23.0%
St. Gregory the Great Parish School	65%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	18.5% 19.6%
St. Lucas Lutheran School	61%	0.0%		28.6%	ļ .
St. John's Lutheran School	61%	0.0%	0.0%	36.1%	50.0%
Lutheran Special School & Education Services	58%	87.1%			20.70/
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy	57%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	30.7%
St. Sebastian School	56%	2.4%	0.0%	40.5%	29.8%
Wisconsin Lutheran High School	52%	13.5%	0.0%	26.0%	21.9%
St. Charles Borromeo School	47%	10.4%	2.3%	18.6%	32.6%
Eastbrook Academy	40%	0.0%	0.0%	38.7%	38.7%
Hillel Academy	40%	100.0%	*	*	*
Trinity Lutheran School	33%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	44.4%
St. Thomas More High School	23%	100.0%	*	*	*
Dominican High School	16%	*	*	*	*
St. Margaret of Tours Parish School	15%				04.00
Divine Savior Holy Angels High School	9%	0.0%	0.0%	52.6%	31.6%
Marquette University High School	8%	0.0%	0.0%	76.9%	92.3%
First Immanuel Lutheran School	2%	*		*	*
Believers in Christ Christian Academy	n/p	0.0%	0.0%	8.4%	11.6%
Catholic East Elementary School	n/p	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	22.9%
Heritage Christian Schools	n/p	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	30.8%
Immanuel Lutheran School	n/p	0.0%	3.0%	33.3%	24.2%
Institute of Technology and Academics	n/p	0.0%	0.7%	4.3%	3.5%
Learning Bridges Kingdom Academy, Inc.	n/p	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pius XI High School	n/p	88.4%	0.0%	15.4%	15.4%
Travis Technology High School	n/p	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wisconsin Academy * Test scores suppressed by DPI due to five or fewer student	n/p	*	*	*	*

^{*} Test scores suppressed by DPI due to five or fewer students taking WKCE.

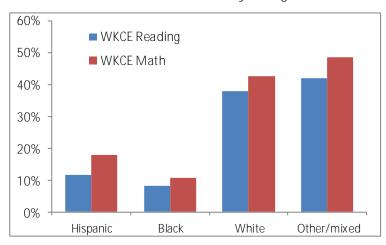


Schools with a racial mix and a low concentration of choice pupils do best on standardized tests

A look at WKCE test scores suggests that racial segregation is correlated with lower test scores. Chart 5 shows weighted average WKCE scores for voucher students attending voucher schools, by racial category. Schools with a student body that is more than 80% African-American have the lowest average proficiency percentages of all school types, with less than 10% of voucher students scoring advanced or proficient on the WKCE in reading and math at those schools. What concerns us is that a plurality (37%) of voucher students attend these predominantly African-American schools. Scores at predominantly Hispanic schools edge up a bit (which 13% of voucher students attend), but still are extremely low. It will be interesting to observe whether the effort to add schools outside the city of Milwaukee will result in more integrated schools and better test scores.

In addition to seeing a linkage between lower test scores and within-school racial concentrations, we also see that a larger concentration of voucher students within schools is associated with lower test scores. Table 3 (pages 6-7) reports WKCE reading and math proficiency percentages for the 99 schools for which test data were available. The scores range

Chart 5: MPCP reading and math proficiency in schools with more than 80% enrollment by a single race



from 0% proficient/advanced for reading and 1% for math in three schools with 100% voucher concentration (meaning that the school population is made up entirely of voucher students), to 77% proficient/advanced in reading and 92% proficient/advanced for math for a school with 8% voucher participation.

Table 4: MPS and MPCP WKCE test scores by grade

	Math		Reading		
	MPCP	MPCP MPS		MPS	
3rd grade					
2012-13	13.2%	24.4%	9.7%	16.1%	
2011-12	13.5%	24.7%	8.6%	16.2%	
2010-11	8.8%	23.8%	7.7%	15.2%	
4th grade					
2012-13	14.8%	23.7%	10.1%	14.3%	
2011-12	14.4%	25.9%	8.6%	15.7%	
2010-11	10.7%	26.1%	6.5%	14.5%	
5th grade					
2012-13	14.1%	23.7%	10.9%	15.6%	
2011-12	14.2%	25.5%	8.9%	14.4%	
2010-11	9.0%	24.4%	8.7%	15.1%	
6th grade					
2012-13	15.0%	22.6%	9.0%	13.4%	
2011-12	10.3%	19.4%	8.8%	13.2%	
2010-11	10.0%	23.3%	7.2%	13.0%	
7th grade					
2012-13	13.1%	18.7%	12.5%	14.7%	
2011-12	11.4%	19.2%	11.6%	14.9%	
2010-11	10.3%	18.3%	11.3%	15.0%	
8th grade					
2012-13	10.6%	16.4%	14.0%	16.6%	
2011-12	11.8%	18.0%	11.6%	14.4%	
2010-11	8.7%	16.6%	11.4%	15.8%	
10th grade					
2012-13	8.9%	12.2%	10.8%	13.8%	
2011-12	6.5%	11.1%	11.6%	14.4%	
2010-11	4.6%	10.3%	6.0%	9.2%	
All grades					
2012-13	13.1%	20.5%	11.1%	15.0%	
2011-12	12.0%	20.8%	9.8%	14.8%	
2010-11	9.1%	20.6%	8.4%	14.0%	



When we correlate these data—test scores and voucher concentration—the analysis suggests that for every 1% rise in voucher student concentration, the percentage of students who are proficient or advanced in reading drops by .8%, and drops by .7% for math (significant at the .01 level).

On the surface, there is no reason to believe there is a material difference in terms of academic potential between choice students in schools with high concentrations of choice pupils and choice students in schools with low concentrations of choice pupils. Consequently, it is logical to ask why voucher students in schools with higher percentages of voucher students perform comparatively poorly.

Several explanations come to mind. Perhaps there *is* a material difference—geographic clustering, or social networks that lead to students with similar socio-economic status choosing the same schools. Or perhaps less-concentrated schools also are better-resourced and this manifests itself in better student outcomes. Recent research on the effects of mixed-income schools supports this connection.⁵

It may be possible to gain insight into this question by considering highly-concentrated voucher schools that have higher test scores. Are there unique attributes of the curriculum, student body, or school day that would serve as best practices for other schools—extended day, Saturday classes, an integration of computerassisted learning, for example?

This discussion also is relevant to consideration of test scores for MPCP students as compared to their counterparts at MPS. Table 4 presents WKCE test score data obtained from DPI for both MPCP and MPS students for the last three years in reading and math. Test scores for MPCP students are trending higher within several

individual grade levels since the 2010-2011 school year for both subjects, yet voucher students underperform MPS students at every grade level. The gap is larger for reading (where an 11 percentage-point gap exists in 3rd grade) than for math (where the largest percentage point gap is 6.4, again in 3rd grade).

Racine Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP)

DPI data show that 13 schools with 1,245 voucher students are now active in the Racine school choice program, known as the Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP). This is a significant increase over the 520 enrolled in 2012-2013.

Only five participating schools elected to return our survey this year. However, we were able to fill in general characteristics (although not race or total enrollment) of most schools based on past survey responses and through our own fieldwork.

Tables 5 and 6 (on the next page) summarize the major characteristics of PPSCP schools. Notably, PPSCP students are performing better on standardized tests than pupils in MPCP. Proficiency percentages in reading and math for PPSCP students were 18.5% and 24.4% respectively, as compared to 11.1% and 13.1% for MPCP students.

Table 5: PPSCP by the numbers

	Number of schools	Percent of PPSCP schools	PPSCP Headcount	Percent of PPSCP enrollment
Schools*	13		1,245	
Kindergarten only	1	7.7%	1	0.1%
Elementary schools	1	7.7%	120	9.6%
Kindergarten through 8th grade	8	61.5%	846	68.0%
High schools	3	23.1%	278	22.3%
Religious schools	11	84.6%	845	67.9%
Catholic	5	38.5%	436	35.0%
Lutheran	6	46.2%	409	32.9%
Non-religious schools	2	15.4%	400	32.1%
Accredited	8	61.5%	678	54.5%
Working toward accreditation	1	7.7%	56	4.5%

⁵ http://tcf.org/work/education/detail/housing-policy-is-school-policy/



Table 6: PPSCP test scores by school

School Name	2012-13 % Reading At/Above Proficient	2012-13 % Math At/Above Proficient	2011-12 % Reading At/Above Proficient	2011-12 % Math At/Above Proficient
Concordia Lutheran School	21.7%	13.0%		
John Paul II Academy	22.6%	35.5%	11.1%	22.2%
Lutheran High School Assoc. of Racine	*	*		
Renaissance School	12.5%	43.8%	25.0%	12.5%
Our Lady of Grace Academy	9.4%	9.4%	23.1%	38.5%
Saint Catherine's High School	33.3%	50.0%		
Saint John's Lutheran School	*	*		
Saint Joseph School	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%
Shoreland Lutheran High School	40.0%	36.0%	*	*
Trinity Lutheran School	0.0%	12.5%		
Wisconsin Lutheran School	5.6%	22.2%	*	*
Racine Program Total	18.5%	24.4%	14.8%	27.9%

^{*} Not enough students enrolled to report score Blank cells are schools not in program that year.

Conclusion

This year's 16th annual Public Policy Forum report on schools and students in the Milwaukee and Racine parental choice programs provides insights on the characteristics of schools participating in the programs and some early context for reflection on the impacts of major program changes enacted in the summer of 2011. In particular, we find that:

- Growth in existing MPCP schools accounts for the majority of student growth in the voucher program. Furthermore, MPCP students seem to be exhibiting a high level of mobility.
- The majority of voucher schools are made up of 80% or more voucher students, and most voucher students go to these schools.
- WKCE test scores for voucher students continue to lag those of MPS students. This is especially true for voucher students who attend predominantly-voucher schools.
- Overall, schools with high concentrations of voucher students experience lower WKCE test scores.

As in previous years, we hope this information will be useful to policymakers, parents, and citizens as they seek to understand the education options available to schoolchildren in southeast Wisconsin and the make-up of parental choice programs in Milwaukee and Racine.

For a directory of schools participating in the program, please go to:

publicpolicyforum.org/2014voucherposter.htm